

Introduction to Educational Psychology

Description of the Examination

The Subject Examination entitled Introduction to Educational Psychology covers the material that is usually taught in a one-semester undergraduate course in this subject. Emphasis is placed on principles of learning and cognition; teaching methods and classroom management; child growth and development; and evaluation and assessment of learning.

The exam contains approximately 100 multiple-choice questions to be answered in two separately timed 45-minute sections.

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the exam require candidates to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Knowledge and comprehension of basic facts, concepts, and principles
- Association of ideas with given theoretical positions
- Awareness of important influences on learning and instruction
- Familiarity with research and statistical concepts and procedures
- Ability to apply various concepts and theories to particular teaching situations and problems

The subject matter of the Introduction to Educational Psychology exam is drawn from the following topics.

Approximate Percent of Examination

5%	Educational Aims or Philosophies
15%	Cognitive Perspective
11%	Behavioristic Perspective
15%	Development
10%	Motivation
17%	Individual Differences
12%	Testing
10%	Pedagogy
5%	Research Design and Analysis

Approximate Percent of Examination 5% Educational Aims or Philosophies

Socialization
Preparation for responsible citizenship
Preparation for careers
Lifelong learning
Moral/character development

15% Cognitive Perspective

Attention and perception
Memory capacity
Organization of long-term memory
Chunking/encoding
Mental imagery
Metacognition
Problem-solving
Transfer

11% Behavioristic Perspective

Classical conditioning
Law of Effect
Operant conditioning
Applications of behaviorism
Behavioral modification programs
Schedules of reinforcement
Token economies
Cognitive learning theory

15% Development

Cognitive
Social
Moral
Language acquisition
Gender identity/sex roles
Adolescence
Mental health
School readiness

10% Motivation

Theories of motivation
Achievement motivation
Locus of control/attribution theory
Learned helplessness
Reinforcement contingencies
Intrinsic motivation
Anxiety/stress

17% Individual Differences

Nature vs. nurture
Intelligence
Aptitude/achievement
Reading ability
Exceptionalities in learning (e.g., giftedness, physical disabilities, and behavior disorders)
Creativity

Cultural influences

12% Testing

- Test construction (e.g., classroom tests)
- Test validity
- Test reliability
- Norm- and criterion-referenced tests
- Scaled scores/standard deviation
- Bias in testing
- Classroom assessment (e.g., grading procedures and formative evaluation)
- Use and misuse of assessment techniques
- Assessment of instructional objectives

10% Pedagogy

- Psychology of content areas
- Instructional design and technique
- Classroom management
- Advance organizers
- Discovery and reception learning
- Cooperative learning
- Clarity/organization
- Teacher expectations/Pygmalion effect/wait time
- Bilingual/ESL instruction

5% Research design and analysis

- Experiments
- Surveys
- Longitudinal research
- Qualitative research/case studies
- Research analysis and statistics

Study Resources

To prepare for the Introduction to Educational Psychology exam, you should study the contents of at least one textbook used in educational psychology courses at the college level. You can find these textbooks in most college bookstores. When selecting a textbook, check the table of contents against the "Knowledge and Skills Required" section. Because they may vary somewhat in content, approach, and emphasis, you are advised to consult more than one textbook on the major topics.

You will find it helpful to supplement your reading with books listed in the bibliographies that can be found in most educational psychology textbooks. The Internet is another resource you could explore.